

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF ISIOLO**

**MUNICIPALITY OF ISIOLO**

**STAKE HOLDER’S PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT ON THE URBAN BUDGET AND SPATIAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT FOR 2023-2033 AND 2024/2025 BUDGET.**

**3RD JUNE 2024**

**1.0 Background of Isiolo Municipality and Isiolo County**

**Isiolo Municipality**

Isiolo Municipality is the administrative and commercial center of Isiolo County, located in the central region of Kenya. The town is strategically positioned at the crossroads of several key highways connecting Northern Kenya to other parts of the country. It serves as a regional hub for trade, administration, and services, playing a critical role in the socio-economic development of Isiolo County and the broader Northern Kenya region.

Isiolo Municipality is the focal point for urban development in Isiolo County, characterized by a rapidly growing population due to both natural growth and migration, particularly from surrounding rural areas. This growth has put pressure on existing infrastructure and public services, necessitating comprehensive urban planning to ensure sustainable development. The municipality is located about 280 kilometers northeast of Nairobi, with a population that has steadily increased, reflecting the urbanization trends in the region.

The municipality is a key player in the region’s integration into the national economy, providing opportunities for commerce, trade, and infrastructure development. With an expanding population, there is a growing need to address urban planning challenges such as waste management, road infrastructure, water supply, sanitation, and environmental management.

**Isiolo County**

Isiolo County is located in the northeastern part of Kenya, bordered by Meru to the south, Garissa to the southeast, Wajir to the northeast, and Samburu to the west. It is part of Kenya’s arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), and its terrain consists largely of lowland areas with dry savannah and semi-desert landscapes. Isiolo County has a diverse population, including a mix of pastoralist communities, traders, and agricultural workers.

The county is rich in cultural diversity, with the main ethnic groups being the Borana, Samburu, and Kikuyu, along with smaller communities such as the Meru and Somali. The primary economic activities in Isiolo County are livestock rearing, agriculture, and trade, with pastoralism being the dominant livelihood. The county is also an emerging hub for tourism, given its proximity to national parks and game reserves, such as Samburu National Reserve and Buffalo Springs Game Reserve.

Isiolo County has vast untapped potential for development in sectors such as agriculture, trade, tourism, and infrastructure. However, it faces several challenges, including recurrent droughts, limited access to basic services, inadequate infrastructure, and a need for improved governance and capacity building. As one of Kenya’s ASAL counties, Isiolo is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which affects water availability, agriculture, and pastoral livelihoods.

**Strategic Importance**

Isiolo County and its municipality are strategically important due to their location as a gateway to Northern Kenya and their connection to key transport corridors linking Kenya to Ethiopia and beyond. This strategic location is expected to enhance the region’s economic prospects, especially with the development of infrastructure such as the Isiolo International Airport, which is poised to boost trade, tourism, and logistics.

Additionally, Isiolo is central to Kenya’s plans for devolution and regional development, with ongoing efforts to promote economic growth, improve public services, and address socio-economic inequalities. The county is also a focal point in Kenya’s efforts to address peace and security challenges in the Horn of Africa, given its proximity to conflict-prone areas.

**Challenges and Opportunities**

Isiolo County and Municipality face numerous challenges, including:

* **Infrastructural Development:** Rapid urban growth and limited resources have strained the existing infrastructure, necessitating investments in roads, water, sanitation, and waste management systems.
* **Climate Change:** The county is susceptible to droughts, floods, and other climate-related challenges that impact livelihoods, particularly for pastoralist communities.
* **Economic Diversification:** There is a need to diversify the local economy beyond traditional pastoralism and agriculture, exploring sectors such as tourism, manufacturing, and trade.
* **Social Services:** Despite improvements, there is a need for further investment in education, health, and social services to support the growing population.

However, the county has significant opportunities for development, including:

* **Tourism and Wildlife Conservation:** Isiolo’s rich biodiversity and proximity to national parks and game reserves offer significant potential for eco-tourism and wildlife conservation efforts.
* **Infrastructure Development:** Ongoing infrastructure projects such as roads, the Isiolo International Airport, and the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport Corridor (LAPSSET) present opportunities to transform Isiolo into a regional transport and logistics hub.
* **Agricultural and Livestock Potential:** The county’s vast land resources provide opportunities for sustainable agricultural practices, including irrigation, and the development of value chains for livestock and agricultural products.

Isiolo Municipality and Isiolo County are at a critical juncture in their development journey. The municipality serves as the economic and administrative heart of the county, with both areas facing significant challenges related to infrastructure, service delivery, and socio-economic development. However, with its strategic location, rich cultural diversity, and emerging opportunities in trade, tourism, and infrastructure, Isiolo has the potential to emerge as a key regional economic player in the coming years. A comprehensive, integrated development approach, with a focus on sustainable growth, infrastructure investment, and community involvement, is essential to realizing Isiolo's full potential.

**2.0 Stakeholders Engagement Report on 2024/2025 Budget and Urban Spatial Plan Development Report.**

This report outlines the comprehensive stakeholder engagement process undertaken to inform the formulation of the 2024/2025 budget and the development of the urban spatial plan. The process aimed to ensure inclusivity, transparency, and accountability while aligning priorities with the socio-economic needs of the community and sustainable urban development principles.

**2.1 .0 Budget for Urban Infrastructure Development and Service Delivery in Isiolo Municipality**

The 2024/2025 budget for urban infrastructure development and service delivery within Isiolo Municipality outlines the financial commitment required to modernize urban infrastructure, enhance service provision, and address the key needs of a growing urban population. The budget focuses on improving key urban services, including transport, water supply, sanitation, waste management, and energy, to foster sustainable development and enhance the quality of life for residents.

**3.1 Key Objectives of the Budget:**

1. **Urban Infrastructure Enhancement:** Allocate funds to improve existing infrastructure, including roads, drainage systems, water and sewage networks, and waste management facilities. This is aimed at supporting the municipality’s rapid urban growth, ensuring the resilience of urban services, and reducing the environmental impact of poorly managed infrastructure.
2. **Sustainable Service Delivery:** Focus on providing reliable and efficient services in critical areas such as water, sanitation, waste management, and energy. This will include projects that enhance operational efficiency, expand access, and improve service quality for all residents.
3. **Inclusive Urban Development:** Ensure that infrastructure development and service delivery are inclusive, meeting the needs of marginalized communities and ensuring that no one is left behind in the growth of Isiolo Municipality.
4. **Promotion of Economic Growth:** Support economic development by improving the business environment through better infrastructure and accessible public services. This includes roads, transport, and waste management systems that are conducive to economic activity.

**3.2 Strategic Allocation of Funds:**

1. **Road and Transport Infrastructure:** A significant portion of the budget will be dedicated to upgrading and maintaining key road networks, including the rehabilitation of roads, expansion of bicycle and motorbike pathways, and the development of pedestrian-friendly infrastructures such as walkways and crossings.
2. **Water and Sanitation:** Funds will be allocated to improving water supply and sanitation facilities, including the expansion of water distribution networks, construction of new sewage systems, and upgrading the water treatment plants. Special attention will be given to addressing water scarcity and ensuring equitable access to clean water across the municipality.
3. **Waste Management and Environmental Sustainability:** The relocation and upgrading of the waste management facility will receive substantial investment, including the purchase of trucks for waste collection and the installation of high-mast floodlights for security purposes. The budget will also fund the construction of modern recycling and composting facilities, promoting environmental sustainability.
4. **Energy and Street Lighting:** Enhancements to the municipality's street lighting system will be prioritized, including the installation of high-mast floodlights in key areas to improve security and promote safer urban environments. The budget will also consider renewable energy solutions to reduce reliance on non-renewable sources and improve energy efficiency.
5. **Flood and Storm Water Management:** Recognizing Isiolo's vulnerability to flooding, the budget allocates resources to improve drainage systems and install flood control mechanisms, including storm water retention ponds, to mitigate the effects of seasonal flooding.
6. **Social Infrastructure:** Investments will be made in social infrastructure, including the construction and upgrading of schools, health centers, and community recreational spaces, which are crucial for supporting the growing urban population.

**Implementation Strategy:** The budget includes a phased approach to infrastructure development, with priority given to high-impact projects that address immediate needs, such as the construction of roads, upgrading sanitation services, and expanding waste management capacity. The projects will be implemented in collaboration with various stakeholders, including government agencies, the private sector, and community groups. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively.

**Actions:** The 2024/2025 budget for urban infrastructure development and service delivery within Isiolo Municipality presents a clear financial roadmap for achieving sustainable urban growth. By focusing on critical infrastructure and essential services, the budget aims to improve the municipality’s livability, enhance public health, and support economic development. With careful planning, investment, and stakeholder cooperation, the municipality will be better equipped to meet the challenges of urbanization while ensuring that services are accessible, efficient, and sustainable for all residents.

**4.0 Executive Summary: Isiolo Municipality Spatial Plan**

The Isiolo Municipality Spatial Plan (2024-2028) outlines the strategic framework for the sustainable development of the municipality, focusing on addressing key urban planning challenges and promoting efficient land use. This plan aims to guide future growth, improve urban infrastructure, and enhance the quality of life for residents through comprehensive land use management, environmental sustainability, and integrated urban development.

**Key Objectives of the Spatial Plan:**

1. **Sustainable Urban Growth:** Ensure that the municipality’s expansion is managed effectively, supporting residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational needs while preserving critical natural resources.
2. **Infrastructure Development:** Develop and upgrade key infrastructure, including roads, drainage, waste management, water supply, and sanitation, to meet the growing population's needs and enhance service delivery.
3. **Environmental Protection:** Incorporate environmental sustainability into urban development by preserving green spaces, improving waste management practices, and mitigating the risks of flooding, soil erosion, and environmental degradation.
4. **Public Participation and Inclusivity:** Involve all stakeholders, including local communities, businesses, and governmental agencies, to ensure that the plan aligns with the needs and aspirations of the population while promoting social inclusivity and equity.

**Strategic Components of the Plan:**

1. **Land Use Zoning:** The plan proposes new land-use zones for residential, commercial, industrial, and public spaces, with clear regulations to manage urban growth. It also identifies areas for future urban expansion, ensuring that growth does not outpace infrastructure and service provision.
2. **Transportation and Accessibility:** The spatial plan focuses on improving transportation networks, including roads, public transport, and pedestrian pathways, with particular attention to the integration of Estate and other key areas into the broader town transport system.
3. **Flood and Storm water Management:** Given Isiolo's vulnerability to flooding and poor drainage, the plan includes comprehensive flood management strategies, including the upgrading of drainage systems and the construction of retention ponds to mitigate the impact of heavy rains.
4. **Waste Management and Sanitation:** A major component of the plan is the relocation and upgrading of the waste management facility, aimed at improving sanitation, reducing environmental hazards, and increasing waste collection efficiency. This includes the development of modern waste processing infrastructure and the installation of adequate waste disposal services.
5. **Social Infrastructure and Services:** The plan outlines provisions for schools, health centers, and recreational facilities, ensuring that as the population grows, the municipality’s social infrastructure meets the community’s needs.

**Implementation and Monitoring:** The spatial plan emphasizes the importance of phased implementation, with immediate focus on high-priority projects, such as waste management infrastructure and road rehabilitation. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be established to track progress and ensure that the plan remains responsive to emerging challenges.

**ACTION:** The Isiolo Municipality Spatial Plan provides a comprehensive blueprint for the municipality’s development over the next five years. By focusing on sustainable urban growth, infrastructure development, environmental protection, and public participation, the plan aims to create a more organized, livable, and resilient urban environment that will meet the needs of Isiolo’s growing population while promoting long-term sustainability.

**3.0 background of the public participation**

The engagement process was designed to involve diverse stakeholders, including residents, government agencies, private sector representatives, civil society, and development partners. This approach ensured that the budget and spatial plan reflect the collective aspirations and needs of all participants.

**Isiolo Community Engagement for Inclusive Participation and Needs Assessment**

**1. Inclusive Participation**

Efforts to involve all stakeholder groups in Isiolo County have been comprehensive and tailored to ensure representation across different demographics, ensuring diverse voices are captured.

* **Community Forums:**
  + Conducted 15 community forums across Isiolo town, Garbatulla, and remote of Merti subcouty and pastoralist areas.
  + Special attention was given to women, youth, and marginalized groups, including the Sakuye community, to ensure their voices are represented.
* **Feedback Mechanisms:**
  + Established suggestion boxes in local administration offices.
  + Developed digital platforms (SMS and WhatsApp groups) for virtual input, particularly for stakeholders in distant areas.
* **Outcomes:**
  + High participation rate, with over 3,500 individuals contributing during forums.
  + Improved trust in government processes due to inclusive dialogue,

**2. Needs Assessment**

The needs assessment exercise aimed to identify socio-economic and environmental challenges specific to the Isiolo community.

* **Key Areas of Concern Identified:**
  + **Livelihoods:** High unemployment rates, limited economic diversification, and reliance on pastoralism.
  + **Education:** Insufficient schools in rural areas and a lack of support for underprivileged students.
  + **Health Services:** Inadequate health facilities and limited access to clean water.
  + **Environmental Issues:** Overgrazing, deforestation, and increasing climate variability impacting pastoralist livelihoods.
* **Data Collection Approaches:**
  + Household surveys conducted in Isiolo town and surrounding areas.
  + Focus group discussions with community leaders and women’s groups.
  + Collaboration with local NGOs to obtain baseline data on health and education.
* **Outcomes:**
  + Comprehensive mapping of socio-economic and environmental needs.
  + Data-driven prioritization of projects for the 2024/2025 budget.

**3. Alignment with Policies**

The engagement process was guided by national and county development policies, ensuring that plans align with broader strategic goals.

* **National Policy Compliance:**
  + Integrated Kenya Vision 2030 and the Big Four Agenda into local development plans.
  + Addressed mandates from the National Urban Development Policy.
* **County-Level Alignment:**
  + Harmonized with the Isiolo County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and County Spatial Plan.
  + Synchronized with disaster risk management strategies, particularly for drought and conflict-affected areas.

**4. Prioritization of Projects**

Stakeholders collectively identified and ranked projects based on urgency, resource availability, and long-term impact.

* **Top Priorities:**
  1. **Water Access Projects:** Construction of boreholes and water pans in rural areas.
  2. **Health Facility Upgrades:** Expansion of Isiolo County Referral Hospital and establishment of mobile clinics for pastoralists.
  3. **Educational Support:** Provision of bursaries and establishment of vocational training centers.
  4. **Economic Empowerment:** Creation of value chains for livestock and eco-tourism development.
* **Resource Allocation Strategy:**
  1. 50% of development funds directed to urgent basic needs (water, health, education).
  2. Remaining funds allocated for long-term projects such as urban infrastructure and renewable energy.

**5. Transparency and Accountability**

To enhance trust and ensure public confidence in the process, several mechanisms were introduced:

* **Public Disclosure:**
  + Regular updates shared through local radio stations, community notice boards, and the county website.
  + Publication of budget proposals and project timelines for public review.
* **Citizen Oversight Committees:**
  + Established committees to monitor project implementation and address grievances.
  + Monthly forums organized to provide status updates on key initiatives.
* **Digital Platforms:**
  + Real-time tracking of project progress via a mobile app developed in collaboration with local IT experts.
  + Online portals allow residents to report discrepancies and provide feedback.

**6. Outcomes and Impact**

* Improved community awareness and participation in governance and planning processes.
* Enhanced prioritization and allocation of resources, focusing on urgent community needs.
* Strengthened accountability through active citizen engagement and transparency mechanisms.

This approach ensures that Isiolo County's 2024/2025 budget and urban spatial plan truly reflect the aspirations and priorities of its diverse community while laying the groundwork for sustainable development.

**2. Objectives of Stakeholders Engagement on budget making process are to:**

**General Objectives of the Budget-Making Process**

1. **Resource Allocation:**
   * Ensure optimal distribution of available resources to address community priorities and development goals.
2. **Inclusivity:**
   * Promote stakeholder participation to capture diverse needs and perspectives, especially marginalized and vulnerable groups.
3. **Policy Alignment:**
   * Ensure budget priorities are aligned with national and county development plans, including Vision 2030 and the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).
4. **Economic Growth:**
   * Stimulate economic activities and create employment opportunities through strategic investments.
5. **Transparency and Accountability:**
   * Foster trust in governance by ensuring the budget-making process is open and verifiable.
6. **Fiscal Responsibility:**
   * Ensure spending remains within sustainable limits and adheres to the principles of public financial management.
7. **Service Delivery:**
   * Enhance access to quality services in sectors like health, education, water, and infrastructure

**General Objectives of Urban Spatial Plan Development**

1. **Land Use Optimization:**
   * Promote efficient and sustainable land use through zoning and land management policies.
2. **Environmental Sustainability:**
   * Incorporate environmental conservation, climate resilience, and disaster management into urban planning.
3. **Infrastructure Development:**
   * Guide the development of transport networks, water supply systems, energy infrastructure, and waste management systems.
4. **Economic Development:**
   * Support economic growth by creating zones for commercial, industrial, and tourism activities.
5. **Social Inclusion:**
   * Ensure equitable access to housing, public spaces, and services for all residents, including marginalized communities.
6. **Urban Resilience:**
   * Prepare for urbanization challenges such as population growth, informal settlements, and resource strain.
7. **Policy and Regulatory Compliance:**
   * Align spatial planning with national urban development policies, county legislation, and international best practices.
8. **Cultural Preservation:**
   * Protect cultural heritage sites and incorporate community identity into urban development.

Both processes aim to create a framework for sustainable development, ensuring the needs of current and future generations are met efficiently and equitably.

**3. Methodology**

**3.1. Stakeholder Mapping**

Key stakeholders were identified and categorized into the following groups:

1. **Government Institutions:** Urban Planning, Finance, and Administration departments.
2. **Community Groups:** Resident associations, marginalized communities, youth, and women groups.
3. **Private Sector:** Investors, business owners, and developers.
4. **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):** Advocacy and service delivery organizations.
5. **Development Partners:** International agencies and donors.

**3.2. Engagement Techniques**

1. **Public Consultations:** Held in urban centers and rural locations to gather public input.
2. **Workshops and Forums:** Focused group discussions with technical experts and local leaders.
3. **Surveys and Questionnaires:** Distributed to stakeholders for structured feedback.
4. **Town Hall Meetings:** Interactive sessions to address concerns and discuss proposals.
5. **Online Platforms:** Digital tools for virtual participation.

**3.3. Data Collection and Analysis**

Qualitative and quantitative data were collected, analyzed, and categorized into thematic areas.

**4. Stakeholder Contributions**

**4.1. Urban Spatial Plan Development**

* **Key Concerns:**
  + Land use and zoning conflicts.
  + Infrastructure gaps, including roads, water, and sanitation.
  + Environmental conservation and climate change mitigation.
* **Proposed Solutions:**
  + Adoption of mixed-use zoning to maximize land utility.
  + Incorporating green spaces and sustainable infrastructure.
  + Enhanced enforcement of urban planning regulations

**4.2. 2024/2025 Budget Priorities**

* **Key Focus Areas:**
  + Improved access to health, education, and social services.
  + Support for local businesses and economic diversification.
  + Investments in renewable energy and climate resilience.
* **Budget Allocations:**
  + 45% for infrastructure and urban development.
  + 30% for climate action and disaster preparedness.
  + 20% for governance and public administration.
  + 5% for contingency and special projects.

**5. Challenges Encountered**

1. **Low Participation from Marginalized Groups:** Limited attendance due to logistical and socio-economic barriers.
2. **Conflicting Interests:** Divergent priorities between stakeholders delayed consensus-building.
3. **Data Gaps:** Inadequate baseline data on urban dynamics and population growth.

**6. Recommendations**

1. **Enhanced Outreach:** Develop tailored communication strategies to include marginalized groups.
2. **Capacity Building:** Train stakeholders on participatory budgeting and spatial planning.
3. **Integrated Approaches:** Harmonize urban planning with socio-economic development.
4. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Establish mechanisms to track implementation progress.

**7. Conclusion**

The stakeholders' engagement process was successful in fostering inclusivity and identifying key priorities for the 2024/2025 budget and urban spatial plan. By addressing the outlined challenges and implementing the recommendations, the outcomes will serve as a robust foundation for sustainable urban growth and development.

**8. Annexes**

1. **Annex I:** List of Stakeholders Consulted.